neighbouring countries who have been granted scholarships during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) and (b) Information is being collected from various Ministries/Departments and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Conversion of religion of Hindu girls in Pakistan

1328. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the complaints of forcible conversion of religion of Hindu girls in Pakistan;

(b) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the U.S. State Department Report on Human Rights Practices in Pakistan 1990; and

(c) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) It is the duty of the Government of Pakistan to protect the rights and prevent the harassment of all its citizens, including of those belonging to the minority communities.

[English]

Profits of Salem Steel Plant

1329: DR. P. VALLAL PERUMAN: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the profits earned by the Salem Steel Plant during 1989-90 and 1990-91;

(b) whether the production capacity of this plant has gone up during the last three years;

(c) whether there is any plan to export steel produced by this plant; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) Salem Steel Plant incurred loss of Rs. 25.63 crores during 1989-90. In 1990-91, the plant has made a profit of Rs. 20.05 crores (provisional subject to finalisation of accounts).

(b) With the commissioning of a new Cold Rolling Mill in March, 1991, the installed capacity of the plant has increased from 32,000 tonnes per annum to 65,000 tonnes per annum of Cold Rolled Stainless Steel Coils/Sheets.

(c) and (d) As against the export of 3628 tonnes of Cold Rolled Stainless Steel Sheets/Coils during 1990-91, Salem Steel Plant proposes to export 8,000 tonnes during 1991-92.

Reservation for Postman and Branch Post Master posts in rural Areas

1330. SHRI ANADI CHARAN DAS: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether reservation is provided to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in recruitment to the posts of Postman and Branch Postmaster in the rural areas;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to enforce reservation to these categories of posts and fulfil the reserved quota?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) to (c) In respect of departmental Postmen, normal rules of reservations apply. However, no reservation is provided to the Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes in recruitment to the posts of Extra Departmental Branch Postmasters, but they are given preference over other